

Christ Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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Web site: www.christcongregationalucc.org

The Rev. Candace Thomas, Interim Minister

Jay Harragin, Director of Music

Our Vision: *A church that listens, praises God, inspires, and serves others.*

February 23, 2020 – 10:30 A.M.

Seminary Sunday/Church Vocations Sunday

Transfiguration

Preparation for Worship:

“...he liked his transcendence out in plain sight where he could keep an eye on it—say, in a nice stained-glass window—not woven through the fabric of life like gold threads through a brocade.

Neal Stephenson, *The Diamond Age*



*Please stand, if it is comfortable for you to do so, where the * indicates.*

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES WE REMEMBER GOD IS WITH US

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP *(Please sign the red fellowship pads at the end of each pew)*

*PASSING THE PEACE *(Greet those around you in a way that is comfortable for you – you might say “The Peace of Christ be with you,” or “God loves you and so do I.”)*

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We hear your challenge, O God, and your call:

People: Come! Says the Lord. Come up to the Holy Mountain!

L: We hear you, Holy One, but we are afraid. What will we find there?

P: Come! Says the Lord. Come up to the Holy Mountain!

L: We are assembled in this sanctuary, this holy place.

Let us meet together here, away from the distractions of the world.

P: Come! Says the Lord. Come up to the Holy Mountain!

L: Mighty One, we know you are a lover of justice.

You have established equity. Our knees, yes even our souls,
quake before you for we have not done what we ought to do.

P: Come! Receive instruction in holiness, righteousness, compassion, and peace.

L: Come! Regain insight to see the least among you,
those whose rights have been trampled upon.

**P: Come! Let the anointing oil of my Spirit open your ears
to the sounds of weeping and the anguished cries for justice.**

L: Come! says the Lord; receive wisdom and strength.

P: Open our eyes and our ears and our hearts to receive your Word.

L: Anoint us as your priests to those who live on the margins –
the outcasts, the lonely, the ignored.

P: Anoint us as your holy people. to receive your Word.

L: Come! Says the Lord. Come up to the Holy Mountain!

I am the Sovereign and Holy One. Do not be afraid.

ALL: Come! Let us worship God!

***SONG OF PRAISE: “Higher Ground” (HFG, No. 469)**

***THE COMMANDMENT OF JESUS (John 15:5, 12)**

*I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much
fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. "This is my commandment, that you
love one another as I have loved you.*

*Yo soy la vid, ustedes son las ramas. Los que permanecen en mí y yo en ellos dan mucho
fruto, porque aparte de mí no puedes hacer nada. "este es mi mandamiento, que se amen
unos a otros como yo los he amado.*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy God, we extol and honor you for who you are.

We praise you for your faithfulness

and for your tender mercies that are renewed every morning.

**We exalt you, Sovereign One, for every blessing of yesterday,
the gift of this day, and the promises of our tomorrows.**

**Grant us an enduring faith as we strive against oppression and despair.
Endow us with contagious joy that uplifts the downtrodden
and inspires hope in you.
Increase in us
the faith and courage of the prophets,
the love of Jesus, and
the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.
In your majestic name we pray, Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC “Be Still, My Soul” by Jean Sibelius arranged by Dan Bird

SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Matthew 17:1-9* NRSV

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG: “More Love to You, O Christ” (NCH, No. 456)
More love to you, O Christ, more love to you!
Hear now the prayer I make faith to renew.
In all I say and do, more love, O Christ, to you,
more love to you, more love to you.

PRAYER OF QUIET (*Open your heart to the movement of God’s Holy Spirit*)

PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*all together*) *We join our hearts together as we pray:*
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen**

DEDICATION OF OUR LIVES AS GRATEFUL STEWARDS - Pastor Candy

In the same way that Miriam, Moses, Aaron, and Samuel called on God's name in their need, so also do God's beloved ones call on God today. May the offerings received today serve as an example of God's loving response.

MUSICAL OFFERING "Joyful Sound" arranged by, Mark Hayes Rober Snyder, vocals

***Presentation of our Gifts with Praise (NCH, No. 780)**

Praise God, who gives us all we have.

Praise Christ, whose life calls us to give.

Praise Holy Spirit, power for good.

These gifts we bring to thank our God. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

God of Awe and Glory, receive these gifts as symbols of our trust in you.

Bless the givers and those who desired to give.

Multiply these offerings and the blessings they represent.

Guide the disbursement of them according to your will.

These things we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN: "I Love to Tell the Story" (HFG, No. 619)

MESSAGE: "Once Upon a Time..." Pastor Candy Thomas

***GOING FORTH SONG: "When the Saints Go Marching In"**

(Thanks to Graham Bryan on horn!)

WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

OH, WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

HOW I LONG TO BE IN THAT NUMBER

WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN!

I WANT TO JOIN THAT HEAVENLY BAND

I WANT TO JOIN THAT HEAVENLY BAND

I WANT TO HEAR THOSE HEAVENLY TRUMPETS

WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN!

(Sing, Clap, Dance as you follow Pastor Candy to Kelsey Hall!)

***THE POSTLUDE**



Liturgist: Stacey Canali
Next Week's Liturgist: Antonia & Anasofia Godley Juarez
Today's Ushers: Joan Campagna & Hermes Morell
Next Week's Ushers: Frank Tirb & Bill McDowell
Nursery Attendant: Judy Carlson
Sunday School Teacher: Antonia Godley-Juarez

*The lovely flowers gracing the altar this morning
are given by Antonia and Andy Godley in honor of
Anasofia's birthday, thanking God for her life.*

Welcome to Everyone!

*Whoever or whatever brought you to worship this morning, we believe that the Spirit of God had a hand in your coming. We hope that you feel the Holy Spirit in our service of prayer and praise. At Christ Congregational Church we strive to love one another as God has loved us and welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us. Therefore, we are an **Open and Affirming** church, loving and welcoming all people in all of God's variety; including racial, ethnic, and economic diversity, gender diversity and expression, sexual orientation, and physical and mental abilities. Please introduce yourself after worship and join us for refreshments in the Kelsey Building.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We thank **The Women's Group** for providing the refreshments today, and the **Men's Group** for providing them next Sunday.

Prime Time Adult Discussion Group meets **Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.** The study is on the book, "**How the Bible Actually Works**" by Peter Enns.

NURSERY CARE is available **for infants and toddlers** during worship. All children are welcome in worship, parents should feel free to use the nursery any time your child becomes uncomfortable. An usher can help you find the nursery.

Faith Education classes are normally offered for all children during the **10:30 a.m.** worship hour. Children are encouraged to begin worship with their parents. There is a special time for all children with the pastor on the front steps. After that the children may go to a class held in the Kelsey Building.

The CCC Women are celebrating our CCC sisters in Christ by sending cards, texts, and calls to those who are celebrating, recuperating, mourning, or struggling. If you would like us to send a card or message to a lady in your life who is celebrating an occasion, mourning a loved one, or needs an uplift, send an email to: **Joan Chandler at bingo123@bellsouth.net** and let us know the occasion.

It's **Blanket the World in Love** month! The UCC's Church World Services collects **\$10 per blanket and distributes them throughout the US and world.** Donations can be made with your plate donation or in the Kelsey building. Identify your name, amount, and a sentiment in honor or in memory of, if you choose. **For each blanket donated, please choose a Heart (in Kelsey and back of chapel) and pin it on our Chapel blanket.**

MARDI GRAS SUNDAY is TODAY! It's the final Sunday before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. We will have a New Orleans-style lunch after worship **TODAY** with jambalaya, corn muffins, and King Cake. The youth who finds the special coin in the cake will be named Keeper of the Alleluia. Together we will put the Alleluia away for Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE, FEBRUARY 26th at 7 p.m. Plan to be present to receive the Imposition of Ashes.

The Church Council wants to thank those members who have offered to share their time and talents on various boards and committees at our church. We currently have 1 unfilled vacancy on Mission Outreach and 1 unfilled vacancy on the Board of Christian Ed. I invite those of you who are not already in a formal role on one of our boards or committees to prayerfully consider filling one of these vacancies. Please see, call or email Lorrie if you decide that serving on Outreach or Christian Ed would work for you.

On Sunday, March 15th, we will install all of our board and committee board members into their roles during our 10:30am worship service. Please join us as we pray with our church leaders and welcome them into their 2020 positions.

The CCC Women will have a book discussion on the book *Educated* by Tara Westover at our April meeting, April 18th at 10:30 AM.

Prayer List: Mark Harrison, Philip Thompson, Natalie Thompson, Javier Pantoja, Kathy Radkiewicz, Shai & Cedric Murphy, Jennifer Best Vickers, Bennie Wiley, The family of Mark Krumich, The family of Dr. Carey Green, Caleb Elkins, Anita Smith, Travis Smith, Maggie McDowell, Gloria Fuller, Amelia Canali, Wendy Olson, Georgina Mori, Deena and Herbert Chamberlin, Sarah Miller, Bill McDowell.

Please let Michelle, our Administrative Assistant, know if there are names you'd like to have added to the Prayer List. She may be e-mailed at or call her at 305-235-9381. Thanks be to God for prayers answered and for comfort given!

For **Pastoral Care Needs**, such as entering the hospital, suffering a crisis, or just want to speak to someone about a personal, spiritual or emotional matter:

Call **Pastor Candy** at **925-640-9289** or you may call or leave a message at the **Church Office, 305-235-9381, Monday-Friday, from 9:30 a.m –2:30 p.m.** and our Office Administrative Assistant, **Michelle Simone**, will assist you in reaching

Pastor Candy. When the office is closed you may call the Board of Deacons Chairperson, **Jim Ketzle**, at **305-495-4452** and he will be able to help you. For **Use of Property Needs** or if you identify a Maintenance Concern call the Board of Trustees Chairperson, **Julio Balcells, 305-282-7882**. For **Other General Questions** or Needs call the Church President/Moderator, **Lorrie LeGrand, 305-978-3801**.

CALENDAR February 23- March 1, 2020

Sun. 23	8:45 a.m.	Garden Chapel Worship with <i>Holy Communion</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Prime time Adult Discussion Group, Kelsey Library
	10:30 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary (Faith classes for children)
	10:30 to 11:30 a.m.	(Child Care for children under 6 years old)
	11:45 a.m.	Mardi Gras Lunch and Celebration, Kelsey Hall
Mon. 24	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study, Sanctuary
Wed. 26	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Thu. 27	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting, Kelsey Hall
Sun. 1	8:45 a.m.	Garden Chapel Worship with <i>Holy Communion</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Prime time Adult Discussion Group, Kelsey Library
	10:30 a.m.	Family First Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary with <i>Holy Communion</i> (No Faith classes for children)
	10:30 to 11:30 a.m.	(Child Care for children under 6 years old)
	11:30 a.m.	Christian Education Meeting, Kelsey Hall

